

***Sidalcea oregana* (Nutt.) Gray**
var. ***calva*** C.L. Hitchcock
Wenatchee Mtn. checker-mallow
Malvaceae (Mallow family)

Status: State Endangered, USFWS Proposed Endangered
Rank: G5T1S1

General Description: Perennial from a stout taproot which is branched at the crown and gives rise to several stems that stand from 8 to 60 inches tall. The leaves are rather thick and fleshy, on long petioles and strongly dimorphic, the basal more shallowly lobed and further divided. The inflorescence consists of one to several loosely flowered racemes. The petals are light to deep pink and the distinctive calyx has fine hairs, <1/16 inch in length, along the margins.

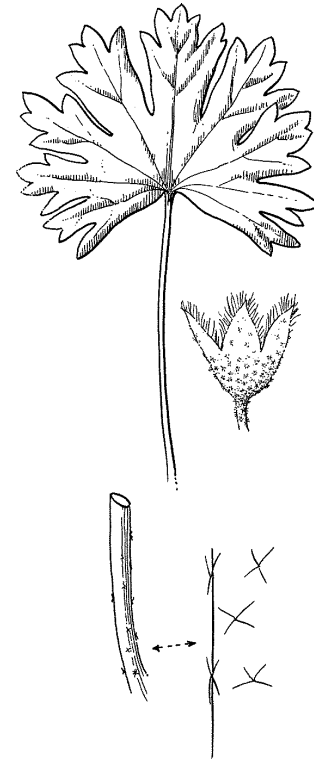
Identification Tips: *Sidalcea oregana* var. *calva* is morphologically very similar to *Sidalcea oregana* var. *procera*, which occurs within the same geographic region. *S. oregana* var. *calva* can most readily be distinguished by the presence of hairs on the margins of the calyx lobes that can be seen without the aid of a lens and its fleshy-textured, large basal leaves, which are generally smooth to the touch on both surfaces.

Phenology: Individuals begin to flower in mid- to late June. Flowering peaks in mid- to late July. Some individuals, however, have flowers present in mid-August. Fairly well-developed fruits are present by early August.

Range: The historical range of *Sidalcea oregana* var. *calva* covered an area of approximately 11 miles x 3 miles, extending south-southeasterly from Leavenworth, Washington (Chelan County). Within this range, there has been significant loss of habitat due to conversion.

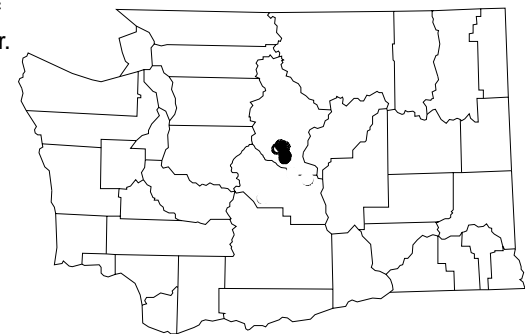
Habitat: *Sidalcea oregana* var. *calva* is most abundant in moist meadows that have surface water or saturated upper soil profiles into early summer. These meadows vary in size from greater than 100 acres to about an acre in size. The taxon is also found in somewhat open coniferous stands dominated by Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) and/or Ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) and along the edge of shrub and hardwood thickets. Associated species include quaking aspen (*Populus tremuloides*), black hawthorn (*Crataegus douglasii*), snowberry

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Known distribution of
Sidalcea oregana var.
calva in Washington



- Current (1980+)
- Historic (older than 1980)

Sidalcea oregana* var. *calva

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Habitat (continued): (*Symphoricarpos albus*), serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*), few-flowered peavine (*Lathyrus pauciflorus*), sticky purple geranium (*Geranium viscosissimum*) and California false hellebore (*Veratrum californicum*). Sixty percent of the *S. oregana* var. *calva* populations are found in association with Wenatchee larkspur (*Delphinium viridescens*), a State Threatened and Federal Species of Concern. The taxon occurs at elevations ranging from approximately 1900 feet to 3200 feet.

Ecology: Historically, fire probably played a role in maintaining suitable habitat for the species by improving light and soil moisture conditions, and keeping succession in check. Fire suppression has altered patterns of succession. The habitats occupied by this taxon would have historically also been influenced by wildlife species, such as elk and beavers.

State Status Comments: The small range of the species along with the small number of known occurrences contribute to the species' status.

Inventory Needs: Additional inventory work should be conducted within the known range of this taxon, particularly in those areas where land management activities are likely to occur.

Threats and Management Concerns: Threats to the taxon include rural residential development, alterations to hydrology, grazing, timber harvest and a variety of recreational pursuits.

References:

Hitchcock, C.L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, and J.W. Thompson. 1961. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest, Part 3: Saxifragaceae to Ericaceae*. University of Washington Press, Seattle. 614 pp.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1997. Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Proposed Endangered Status for Plant in the Wenatchee Mountains of Washington. Federal Register Vol. 62, No. 148 (August 1, 1997).